



# Press Release



**Congressman John Conyers, Jr.  
Michigan, 14<sup>th</sup> District**

**Ranking Member, U.S. House Judiciary Committee  
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus**

[www.house.gov/judiciary\\_democrats/index.html](http://www.house.gov/judiciary_democrats/index.html)

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**Conyers Decries National ID and Anti-Immigrant Provisions In  
Iraq Supplemental Appropriations Bill**

Rep. John Conyers Jr, Ranking Member House Judiciary Committee, issued the following statement today in response to the proposed inclusion of the controversial Real ID Act in the Emergency Supplemental Bill:

“The REAL ID Act is harmful to this country for three important reasons: it threatens the privacy of Americans, it sends refugees back to their persecutors and it establishes the dangerous precedent of empowering a Cabinet Secretary to waive any law for a policy goal.”

“Under the guise of making this nation safer, the new driver’s license mandates trample privacy rights and lay the foundation for a National ID card. This measure will allow sensitive personal information to be shared on a national database without any restrictions on who can access the information and what for. I am appalled that despite a public outcry from civil libertarians, second amendment advocates, and privacy advocates, the Majority has forced this misguided and dangerous legislation on the American people.”

“The onerous drivers license requirements impose a massive unfunded mandate on the states and will roll back the substantive bipartisan reforms won by the 9/11 families and 9/11 commission just last year. This bill will not make us safer. The new requirements will pose a risk to us all by forcing more immigrants to drive without a license or auto insurance and severely limiting law enforcement’s resources for investigating and preventing acts of terrorism on United States soil.”

“While Republicans are trying to portray themselves as the party for Latino voters, they are passing the most extreme, anti-immigrant legislation in memory. This bill will slam the door on many refugees who qualify for our asylum protection, forcing them to return to countries where they will face terror, torture and death.”

“Down the road we will regret passing the broad sweeping language in this bill that allows the Secretary of Homeland Security to waive any law - local, state or federal laws or regulations, even court orders - to build a 14 mile fence on the San Diego border. We are opening pandora’s box by empowering a government official to ignore the law to meet a narrow policy objective.”

“They call this a compromise bill but don’t be fooled. The REAL ID Act was passed without hearings, review, negotiation or debate. Democrats were shut out of all negotiations in conference and none of our concerns were addressed. There is nothing democratic about this bill or this process - it is the pure result of concentrated power running unchecked.”

“Rather than protecting Americans from terror, these measures tear away at the very fabric of our nation. In the guise of protecting America, this legislation will scapegoat immigrants and trample the rights of all Americans.”

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